

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053705

EXDIS - USEEC

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TAGS:DA, EEC

SUBJECT:MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND PRIME
MINISTER JORGENSEN

1. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL MET WITH DANISH PRIME MINISTER
JORGENSEN AT BLAIR HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 22 FOR A DISCUSSION
WHICH CENTERED ON DENMARK'S INTEREST, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EC,
IN A COMMON APPROACH TO WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ALSO

PRESENT WERE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN, TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SOLOMON, DANISH AMBASSADOR TO US BORCH, US AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK DEAN, AND SEVERAL OTHER DANISH OFFICIALS.

2. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EC, WHAT COULD BE DONE AT THE APRIL EC SUMMIT AND THE JULY SUMMIT IN THE WAY OF CONCERTED ACTION TO IMPROVE THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE EXPRESSED DENMARK'S PLEASURE THAT THE U.S. HAD REACHED ITS GROWTH TARGET AND APPRECIATION FOR THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD GROWTH. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL REFERRED TO THE COMMON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND RECOGNIZED THAT INSTABILITY OF THE U.S. DOLLAR, BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY, HAS EFFECTS THAT ARE SOMEWHAT WIDER THAN FOR OTHERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT A FIRST ISSUE FOR THE APRIL EC

SUMMIT, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, MIGHT BE WAYS IN WHICH GROWTH COULD BE PURSUED JOINTLY. SECONDLY, HE NOTED THAT PROGRESS ON THE MTN SHOULD BE A MAJOR AIM. THIRDLY, HE FELT THAT A COMMITMENT TO AVOID PUBLIC SCOLDING OF EACH OTHERS' POLICIES WOULD BE USEFUL. LASTLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT PRESENT COLLABORATION IN THE EXCHANGE MARKETS TO COMBAT DISORDERLY CONDITIONS SHOULD BE CONTINUED.
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3. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN SAID THAT DENMARK CONSIDERS THE SNAKE A USEFUL ARRANGEMENT, AND SAID THAT THE INSTABILITY OF THE DOLLAR IS A DANGER TO THE SNAKE. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT ANY IDEA THAT THE U.S. FAVORS A FALLING OR UNSTABLE DOLLAR IS WRONG. HE SAID DOLLAR SALES BY SNAKE MEMBERS TO PRESERVE SNAKE RELATIONSHIPS HAD PUT DOWNWARD PRESSURE ON THE DOLLAR.

4. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN ASKED FOR THE SECRETARY'S IMPRESSIONS OF HIS MEETING WITH SCHMIDT. HE SAID THE DANES STILL TRY TO SAY THAT GERMANY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY FOR A COMMON AND COORDINATED INITIATIVE, BUT SCHMIDT REPLIES THAT THE GERMANS ARE DOING ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE. YET A RECENT SPEECH BY SCHMIDT TO THE BUNDESTAG SEEMED TO INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO DO MORE IN CONCERT WITH THE EC, THE U.S. AND OTHERS. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL SAID HIS MEETING WITH SCHMIDT WAS A GOOD ONE, AND HE WAS SORRY THAT THE PAPERS REPORTED THE PURPOSE OF HIS MEETING AS TO PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE GERMANS SINCE THAT WAS NOT HIS PURPOSE, AND HE DID NOT DO SO. THEY DID DISCUSS WHAT COULD BE DONE TOGETHER, ALTHOUGH SCHMIDT SAID THE GERMANS WERE DOING ALL THEY COULD. THE SECRETARY HAD TOLD SCHMIDT THAT IF GERMANY ACHIEVES 3.5 GROWTH IT WOULD AT LEAST BE A LITTLE

BETTER THAN LAST YEAR. HE SAID THAT THERE IS A DM PROBLEM AS WELL AS A DOLLAR PROBLEM. SCHMIDT WAS NOT WILLING TO MAKE A PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO TAKE ADDITIONAL MEASURES IF IT LOOKS LIKE 3.5 GROWTH WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED.

5. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN SAID THAT, BY AGREEMENT WITH GERMANY, THE DANES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE JULY SUMMIT EVEN AFTER GERMANY ASSUMES THE EC CHAIR IN JULY. THEREFORE, DENMARK WOULD LIKE CLOSER TIES WITH THE U.S. SO AS TO BE AWARE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. POSITIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER WISHED TO SEND FINANCE MINISTER HEINESEN TO THE U.S. SECRETARY
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BLUMENTHAL SAID THAT WE WILL TRY TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT TO KEEP THE DANES FULLY INFORMED, AND SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE MINISTER HEINESEN IF HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS.
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